

Who or What is the Holy Spirit?

(This material has been gleaned from various sources; much of it is from a series of class lesson presented by Larry Sweeney)

Introduction:

A. We know and talk about God the father, and Jesus the Son, but few folks seem to understand much about the Holy Spirit.

B. The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost in KJV) is a he, not an it. The Holy Spirit is a being with personality not simply a force or power. He is a living heavenly person. He is the third member of the Godhead.

C. We will be spending the next several weeks discussing and learning more about the Holy Spirit.

D. J.J. Turner & Edward P. Myers, Doctrine of the Godhead, p. 103 “Let it be stated in the beginning that what man knows about the Spirit of God can only come by way of Revelation (the Bible). For without Revelation we could know nothing concerning the working of the Holy Spirit. We shall limit ourselves, therefore, to what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and leave speculation to others.”

I. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit.

A. He is a non-physical being- he does not have flesh and bones- Luke 24:39
"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

B. He exists in a spiritual dimension- a non-physical realm.

1. 2 Cor. 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2. He, like God, cannot be seen with the human eye- 1 Tim. 6:16- who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

II. The Holy Spirit is a “Person” Every bit of information in the Bible suggest to us that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person. He has personal traits, just as the Father and the Son.

A. Attributes of a person, not just a force.

1. Judgment- Acts 15:28- For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

2. Mind- Rom. 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

3. Will- 1 Cor. 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

4. Knowledge-1 Cor. 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

5. Emotions such as;

a. love Rom. 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

b. joy- 1 Thess. 1:6- And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

c. grief- Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

B. Notice the Holy Spirit has Activities of a person. (Only a person/personality can perform these types of activities.

1. Teaches and reminds- Jn. 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

2. Bears witness- Jn. 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

3. Guides into all truth, speaks, hears, discloses- Jn. 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

4. Forbids- Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

5. Gives life- Rom. 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

6. Leads- Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

7. Intercedes- Rom. 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is], because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the] [will] [of] God.

8. Reveals- 1 Cor. 2:9- 10 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

9. Invites- Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

C. The Holy Spirit can be mistreated: The slights and injuries committed against the Holy Spirit are described in terms usually associated with the mistreatment of a person- rather than some non-living force.

1. Blasphemed- Matt. 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

2. Lied to- Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back [part] of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

3. Resisted- Acts 7:51 [You] stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers [did], so [do] you.

4. Grieved- Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

5. Despised/insulted- Heb. 10:29- Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

D. The Holy Spirit has a separate Existence.

1. Matt. 3:16-17 6 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (see also Luke 3:21-22)

2. John 14:16-17 16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

3. John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.,

III. The Holy Spirit is Divine (He possess qualities only possessed by God.)

A. The Spirit is mentioned along with the Father and Son-

1. Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2. Notice 1 Cor. 12:4-7, "There are diversities of gifts, but the **same Spirit**. There are differences of ministries, but the **same Lord**. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the **same God** who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." V11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

3. 2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. (RSV 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.)

B. The Holy Spirit is eternal- Heb. 9:14 "how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

C. The Holy Spirit is Omniscient (having complete or unlimited knowledge)- 1 Cor. 2:10-11 "God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

D. The Holy Spirit shares in the is omnipotent (having all power.) power of God- Luke 1:35; 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "[The] Holy Spirit will come

upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

E. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time)- Psa. 139:7
“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

F. The Holy Spirit had a part in creation- Gen. 1:2-3 “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.”

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit is a distinct, divine personality. He has personal actions, has definite personal traits. We must recognize the Holy Spirit as a divine being- a living heavenly person- not some non-living power of force.